

PLANTING IDEAS

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Boone County Soil & Water Conservation District*



Grazing Systems On Small Grazing Acreages

Kevin Monckton, SWCD Technician

Boone County has a large number of landowners who have limited acres; many of these are around ten acres. Although many agricultural enterprises are feasible for larger acreage tracts but may not be for the smaller tracts, many conservation practices used on large tracts of land can also be utilized on smaller ones as well.

Managing grazing land is one practice that can be applied on small acreages. The first and most important factor to remember is to not overgraze pastures. Stocking rates need to be determined by production and species of grass. Size and class of livestock and number of days grazing are the key factors of utilization of forages grown.



The advantage of a grazing system is improvement to pastures. The improvements are done by dividing pastures into small paddocks making livestock utilize more of the grass in the individual pasture they are in and allowing rest periods for the grass to recover before being grazed again. We have producers that have pastures divided from as few as four paddocks to as many as forty or fifty paddocks. For the average cow/calf producer, twelve to sixteen is a nice number of paddocks, but everybody's needs are different because of livestock's energy needs and the system manager's needs and expectations.



Water is a critical factor in any grazing situation. The maximum distance to water should never be more than 600 to 800 feet. In the smaller acreages this is seldom a problem, and one water source will usually be plenty for the whole pasture.

Fencing principles are the same on smaller grazing areas as on larger pastures. A combination of permanent and temporary fencing is an efficient and flexible way of subdividing pastures to hold down costs and keep flexibility in the grazing system.

The differences between larger grazing acreages and smaller ones include cost per acre of setting up a grazing system. The smaller system will probably be much more expensive per acre. The type of livestock grazed and the fencing requirements will probably be different as smaller acre systems are more likely to graze sheep, goats, or other small animals. Smaller animals tend to require more fencing compared to the larger animals, such as multiple wires on cross fencing. Waterers will be more costly per acre as one water may serve less than ten acres.

The cost-share will be more limited on smaller systems as the state cost-share program pays up to a limit per acre for fence, water, and developing water sources. The EQIP program does not have this limit, but the number of applications being approved are somewhat limited.

If you are interested in developing a system, there are a few steps that you need to take to proceed with a grazing system. The district cost-share requires you to attend a grazing school prior to completing an application; the EQIP program does not, but it would be a good idea for anyone interested in improving grazing to attend. When planning a grazing system you should always make allowances to add to that system; if water is placed correctly, it is much easier to subdivide pastures at a later date.

Cost-share is available for cross-fence, water, and water sources once the perimeter fence has been completed. If you are interested in a grazing system, please call our office.

"The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer"

**Boone County
Soil and Water
Conservation District**

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CONSERVATION**

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Statement of frequency: Biannual
Mailed in Columbia, Missouri

Authorized organization's name &
address:

**Boone County Soil & Water
Conservation District**
Parkade Center, Suite 213E
601 Business Loop 70 West
Columbia, MO 65203
573-875-5540 ext. 3
www.swcd.mo.gov/boone

Hours:

Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Closed 12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Funding for information/education
activities are provided in part by the
Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax
through the Missouri Department of

PASTURE WALK

TUESDAY, JUNE 21st

6:00 P.M.

Mike & Stephanie Smith's Windrush Farm

Dinner will be followed by a pasture walk through Windrush Farm located at 8351 South Rangeline Road. We will be viewing warm season grass establishments, legume seedings, an intensive grazing system, a grade stabilization project, and a wetland. Please call the office at 875-5540 ext. 3 now if interested. We will send updates closer to the meeting time.

Ruts Ruts Ruts

**A variance will allow the operator to work the rutted areas
prior to planting and avoid being out of compliance.**

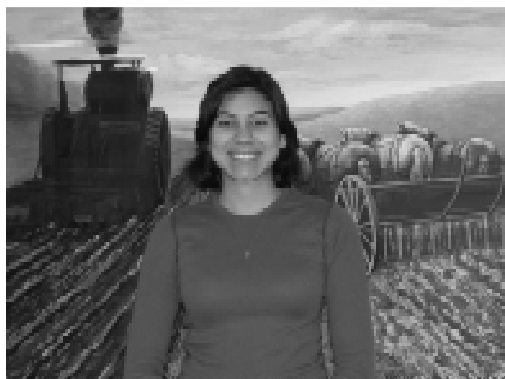
The State Food and Agricultural Council Committee is granting a weather related variance for Missouri in 2011. During growing season 2010 the northern portion of Missouri received excessive amounts of rainfall. Many operators were forced to harvest their crops under very wet soil conditions causing ruts in many fields. USDA Program participants are required to stay in compliance with the highly erodible land conservation provisions of the Farm Bill. Soon operators must decide how to maintain their conservation plans and avoid being out of compliance due to working the ground more than usual. One way to maintain compliance while working areas that have ruts is to request a temporary variance due to wet weather. This variance will allow the operator to work the rutted areas prior to planting and avoid being out of compliance. This variance must be requested prior to beginning field work.

How to request a variance? The landowners/operators must stop by the NRCS or FSA office and identify on a map where the ruts are located and what additional tillage will be used. It is that simple.

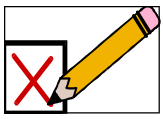
New Staff Member in Boone County Field Office

My name is Brendaly Rodriguez Muñoz; I am a Soil Conservationist with NRCS. I am happy to be the new staff member of the Boone County NRCS Field Office. As a Soil Conservationist, I will be helping people to set local conservation priorities, plan, lay out, design, and implement conservation practices, along with suggesting ways to conserve the soil, improve water quality, manage nutrients, and protect and improve wildlife habitat. I started working with NRCS as a student trainee last summer in Bollinger, Wayne, and Madison Counties.

After that summer, I graduated from Purdue University at West Lafayette, Indiana and moved to Boone County. Now that I am here I look forward to working with you.



Helping people help the land.



2011 DISTRICT ELECTION NEWS

Boone County SWCD Open House & Election — 3/30/11

We will be having doughnuts, juice, and coffee from 7 to 11:00 a.m. and Chili and Hotdogs from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Staff will be available to answer questions about federal and state programs and other technical assistance.

Soil & Water

Conservation District Election

Wednesday

March 30, 2011

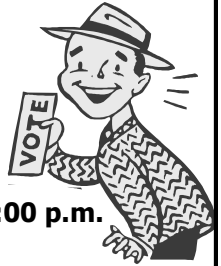
Polls Open 7:00 a.m.--1:00 p.m.

USDA Service Center

Parkade Center

601 Bus. Loop 70W, Ste. 213E

Columbia, MO



Supervisors from Area 2 (Katy, Perche, and Missouri Townships) and from Area 4 (Cedar, Three Creeks, and Rock Bridge Townships) will be elected for four year terms. An eligible land representative of an SWCD (the owner, or representative authorized by power of attorney, of any farm (land that has been assigned an FSA farm number or land which has been assessed as agricultural land by the county assessor)) may vote in any SWCD supervisor election held within that particular SWCD. Only a land representative is eligible to cast a vote in SWCD supervisor elections. **If challenged, eligibility to vote must be demonstrated by the land representative.** Each farm shall be entitled to representation in SWCD supervisor elections and a land representative shall be deemed as owning one farm and having one vote, regardless of the number of farms claimed by such person. A farm owned by a firm, LLC, or corporation may be represented by one vote cast by one land representative so authorized by the firm or corporation; a farm owned by a partnership, or jointly by a husband and wife, may be represented by two land representatives. A trust can be represented by its trustee or co-trustees. If it is impossible for the farm owner to personally appear, a Power of Attorney may be given to a taxpaying citizen of the county who may represent one owner.

**VOTE
MARCH 30th**



CANDIDATE PROFILES

Area 2 (Perche, Katy, & Missouri Townships)

Frank Gordon has worked and lived in Boone County for over 33 years. He was a District Conservationist and Urban Resource Conservationist for the SCS/NRCS. Frank currently grows Norton grapes on a six acre commercial vineyard near Huntsdale. He is currently a director with the Missouri Grape Growers Association.

Gary Frisch has lived in Boone County for 40 years. He is married with three daughters. He owns 320 acres with crops, hay, and pasture utilizing a rotational grazing system for his 40 cow/calf operation. Gary has a Agriculture-Business Degree and worked for the USDA/FmHA/RD for 33 years. He currently volunteers as an AARP Tax Counselor and has served on his church's Board Of Elders and as Financial Secretary for 14 years. He believes in fair and efficient use of district funds to protect our land resources for future generations.

Area 4 (Rock Bridge, Cedar, & Three Creeks Townships)

Stephanie Smith and her husband, Mike, have lived in Boone County for 31 years. They operate Windrush Farm, raising Red Angus seed-stock. They are very diligent about protecting the soil and water environment. On their farm they have implemented permanent warm season grass establishments, legume interseedings, a grade stabilization project, grazing system, and a wetland. Stephanie is a native plant enthusiast and has propagated many native species on their farm. Stephanie has assisted the Boone County SWCD by opening their farm for farm field tours and is willing to use her knowledge and talents to promote soil and water conservation.

Jim Bullard is a 5th generation Southern Boone Countian. Jim and his wife, Shari, have two sons, Ross and Jacob. Jim is a graduate of Southern Boone County High School and attended the University of Missouri and Moberly Area Community College. He is retired from the City of Columbia Fire Department and is now employed by Cole County EMS. Jim is also the assistant Chief of the Southern Boone County FPD. He and his family have a cow/calf operation and use Management Intensive Grazing.



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Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District

Parkade Center, Suite 213E

601 Business Loop 70 West

Columbia, MO 65203

573-875-5540 ext. 3

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Farming, conserving and preserving our resources work hand in hand.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Sign-Up 41

A CRP general sign-up will be held from **March 14 through April 15, 2011**. This voluntary program helps agricultural producers use environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to control soil erosion, improve water and air quality, and develop wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is 10 to 15 years. Accepted contracts will begin Oct. 1, 2011. To be eligible, land must have crop history four of six crop years from 2002 to 2007. Land must also be physically and legally capable of being planted.

Land that is not currently enrolled in CRP may be offered for enrollment during CRP sign-up 41. In addition, CRP participants with contracts expiring on Sept. 31, 2011, may submit offers. FSA offices will accept offers only during the sign-up period (March 14 through April 15, 2011).

Calendar of Events

| | |
|----------|--|
| March 14 | CRP sign-up through April 15 th |
| March 23 | Central Region Envirothon Runge Center, Jefferson City |
| March 30 | SWCD/Callahan Election USDA Service Center Polls open 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. |
| April 5 | SWCD Board Mtg., 1:00 p.m. |
| May 3 | SWCD Board Mtg., 9:00 a.m. |
| June 7 | Deadline to complete 2011 Cost-Share projects. |
| June 21 | Pasture Walk/Dinner Windrush Farm |

SWCD Board Meeting Schedule:
First Tuesday of every month

STUFFED MUSHROOMS

1 large carton large **white button mushrooms**, washed, peeled, stemmed; reserve stems for later.

¼ cup **margarine**

1 large **onion**, finely chopped

2 Tab. **minced garlic**

Chopped **stems from mushrooms**

Sauté until onions are tender

½ teas. **pepper**

About 4 slices of **ham**, finely chopped

2 Tab. **Italian seasonings**

Gently stir into vegetable mixture.

½ cup **seasoned breadcrumbs**

½ cup **sour cream**

1 cup shredded **mozzarella cheese**

Fold into mixture and heat until melted; if too dry, add sour cream or red wine.



Parmesan cheese

Stuff caps and place in greased 9"x13" dish. Sprinkle with parmesan cheese. Bake uncovered 350° 25-30 minutes.